

The 76th BATTALION News

VOL. I SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC June 16, 1943 No. 4
 Issued on 2nd and 4th Wed. each month.---Censored for Mailing Purposes.

"THE LOST LEGION" (Reprinted from the Marine Corps Newspaper)

"A midwestern newsman has written that the Seabees either get a kick out of their comparative anonymity or are reconciled to being the "Lost Legion" of war publicity.

Maybe he's right, for from the stream of stories that come out of the combat zones, few enough do justice to the men who are equally at home with rifle or building tool. They are even

contenders for the title of 'first to land', a phrase that's been linked with the name Marine for a good many decades. And we'll willingly share it with the Seabees for they're part and parcel of Marine outfits on all of the battlefronts. They wear the Marine uniform, are given parts of their training by Marine instructors, and--most important of all--can lay down their shovels and hammers when it's necessary and fight shoulder to shoulder with the Marines. They did it more than once on Guadalcanal---

and let no one forget for an instant that it was because the Seabees both fought and worked that Marine flyers were able to use that precious strip of runway known as Henderson Field.

Nothing that is printed can give a good workman the satisfaction and thrill that he gets out of seeing his job well done, knowing in his heart that it was tough to do, and that the odds were stacked against him. The Seabees know in their hearts that that's the kind of a job they've been doing. They deserve more than a few roars of glory in the home-town papers that have been directed their way."--ED. We thank you for the bouquet, Marines!

DID YOU
 EVER HAVE AN
 URGE TO WRITE?
 --OR DRAW ??? IF

NOT GET IT !!!!! It's
 easy to do in your spare
 (?) time, and LOOK at the
 money you will make (?) as
 well as the fun you will have!

PRIZES of \$5.00 each will be given
 next issue for the following:

1. The best name or heading for the paper.
2. The best article submitted.
3. The best sketch for the paper.

Prize
\$5.00

Regular news
 from participants
 be turned in

Chaplain's decision to be final in awarding prizes. THIS IS YOUR PAPER and we NEED YOUR HELP.

If you have something you want to see herein, TURN IT IN, we'll be glad to help you put it in printable form if you want help with it. But GOOD, BAD, OR INDIFFERENT, shoot the letter to us Herbert.

Rainfall in Honolulu is 25 inches per year, but increases to 100 inches in the mountains.

THE STAFF

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Thanks, Neighbors, for letting us use your mimeographing facilities.

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DISCHARGE DOPE; An Editorial

Are you over 45? Was your type of work or farming of the utmost value to Uncle Sam? If the answer to these questions is yes, you are invited to continue reading this article. If the answer is no, you will be wasting your time.

A circular letter received recently from the Bureau of Yards and Docks, under whose guiding hand and watchful eye we are working, stated that men over 45 years of age; those who could prove that the folks back home were entirely dependant upon them for support; those returning to essential war jobs or farming could, after getting the right type of letters, be released from active duty with the United States Navy.

This, as most of you realize, is the first time that such a plan has been offered to Naval personnel as your enlistment was strictly voluntary. The plan, as set forth for those over 45 required letters from the prospective employer. For anyone claiming dependency affidavits from leading citizens, preferably ministers, bankers or lawyers were required in addition to the employment letter. For anyone under 45 wanting to go back to essential industry or farming, letters are required from the prospective employer stating the type of work to be engaged in by. A letter from the local Draft Board is necessary stating that if and when you are released from active duty you will be deferred from the draft. (It might be advisable to have the future employer send a

carbon copy of his letter to you to the Draft Board).

After all this information is compiled by you, turn it over to the Personnel Officer or Mr. Winkler's yeoman. The letters will then be sent to Washington along with any comments that Mr. Winkler might see fit to add. An investigation will be made, with the results being made known to you.

Now don't go getting any idea that you are going home as the "Skipper" informs us that this only applies to men still within the continental limits of the United States. So, until the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to the United States as the 49th state it looks as though you fellows will still be with us for a while.

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FROM HOME FRONT

By J. F. Rogers

Under the energetic direction of Warrant Officer Happoldt, the following activities are now in process of completion.

Wash racks with HOT water are now being built for enlisted men and will be ready for use before the end of the week.

Gun racks are being built for our carbines, in each barracks, so that we will not have to hang them off the end of our bunks.

Carpenter shop has been temporarily set up at back of warehouse.

A permanent shop for plumbing and carpentry is contemplated.

Mess Hall has been screened to keep out flies.

Fire-chief Hamman got out his bulldozer and men and knocked off the rough spots on our grounds. A big improvement that really shows up. Now how about the bermuda and flowers?

The Fire Department also has been to school and Chief Hamman reports that all nine of them were better liked and did better than other outfit, and that ours was one of the few C.B. fire departments to get this training. Among other things they studied underwater operations. The Chief thinks he has about the best group of workmen in camp--and rumor hath it that he is not far from wrong. Have you noticed the rock borders around some of the yards. Thank the fire department. Thank them also

(Continued on Pg. 4)

OFFICER OF THE WEEK

By A.B. Benson

One of the best ways we know of to describe the Officer we meet in the paper this week is to say he is one of those rare individuals who has the distinction of being classified by his co-workers and friends as a "man's man."

John Joseph Fleming Jr., Lt. (CEC) USNR, was born February 16, 1901, in Burlington, Iowa; on the west bank of the Mississippi River; having a Pennsylvania mother and Louisiana father. After spending his childhood and youth in that city, he prepared for college at St. Marys, Kansas, and Georgetown Preparatory School, Washington, D. C. From there he went to Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., and graduated from that famous institution in 1924 with a degree in Civil Engineering. The city of brotherly love was to claim him next where he started on the road to success both as a husband and engineer. He now owns a home in the suburbs of Philadelphia where his wife and son, Thomas, age 16 reside.

It can be said that Lt. Fleming and family are taking more than a half-hearted interest in this war. He has a brother, three brothers-in-law and eight nephews all in the Army as Officers. Although first of his family to enter the Navy, he now has one nephew at Annapolis.

In civilian life Lt. Fleming's career traces a close parallel to some of those Engineering Miracles for which we Americans are so proud. From 1924 to 1931, we find him first a laborer in construction work; advancing through jobs as gang boss, then assistant superintendent and finally as Estimator and Field Engineer. After constructing industrial plants, bridges, railroads, and everything else one can think of, we see him in 1931 going to work for the Philadelphia Gas Works Co., as supervisor in complete charge of hundreds of men.

From this company, Lt. Fleming joined the Seabees in 1942. Our Battalion now have his services, and Company C have the good fortune of having him for their boss.

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BIBLE CLASS

Eight men turned out for a Bible Class, Sunday night at 2000. They are starting with the Gospel of Matthew. The class will not only make a serious study of the great Book, but will give men an opportunity to express and clarify their views on matters of religion and faith.

WHAT TO DO IN A BOMB RAID

1. When you first hear the Air Raid Siren, run like Hell; doesn't matter where just so you run somewhere. Tell others to run; it adds to the excitement and confusion.

2. Take full advantage of any opportunities which present themselves during a raid. For instance; If in a Bakery, grab a pie on the way out.

If in a Tavern, grab a beer.

If in a bank; grab all you can.

If in a show, grab a blonde.

3. If you are in a building where an incendiary bomb falls, throw gasoline on it. You couldn't put it out anyway, so have some fun.

4. When the first bomb falls, start yelling bloody murder. It adds more to the confusion and scares Hell out of the kids.

5. If you find a bomb which has not exploded, pick it up and shake it; maybe the pin is stuck. If you still think it is a dud, hit it with a rock.

6. If you have time, grab a Limburger or onion sandwich before entering a bomb shelter. You will have more room.

7. If an Air Raid Warden says anything to you, knock him down. They always get the best seats and think they know too much anyway.

8. If you get hit by a bomb explosion, don't go to pieces. Lie still and the sanitation squad will take care of you.

9. Help to take others' minds off the danger by innocent pranks such as the following:

Goose anyone standing near you in a bomb shelter.

Light firecrackers and throw them into crowds.

Trip anyone running too fast.

10. After the raid, be nonchalant; light a cigarette, change your underwear, act like nothing had happened.

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NIGHT LIFE

Did you ever have a call to nature at 2 A.M. and wake up enough to notice the volume and variety of noises originating in the barracks: Snoring in every key and tempo--groans from every direction--a half dozen guys laughing in their sleep--a nightmare now and then--and 17 guys talking in their sleep (and about such things!!!)--a shoe or bottle kicked off on the floor--and more often than not several of those "unprintable" noises?? If you haven't noticed this you do not yet know what the spook house is like.

News from the Home Front (Continued from Pg.2)

for removing that den of sin known as the Chief's Club off into the woods where there is no one to be kept awake. As to his new responsibility, the laundry, the chief has no comment to make. He will however, present a case of beer to the man who exposes the rascal that had the crust to hack the rubber fire extinguisher (back pack type) hose in two. Your chance to earn a case of beer, boys.

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Those 20 MM and 30 calibre buns you have seen on the grounds did not get there by themselves. And it did not just happen that a large supply of ammunition is available at a moment's notice both for these and the carbines, that nine men including Ensign Babb just got their diplomas from a gunnery school, that a long-range firing program is in the offing. Thanks and congratulations to the ordnance department and its Chief Gunners' Mate K. R. Thomas, who has not only us here to look after, but also the boys of the 76th in four other places.

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SPEAKING OF ORDNANCE By. G. T. Ugland

Having returned after two weeks intensive training on 20MM and 30 cal. guns, having all shot well over 1000 rounds each, and studied all parts of the guns, the 76th C.B. group was high group over 10 other groups from various ships of the Navy, so don't worry, fellows you'll be well protected in case of an air raid, etc.

The usual things were very prominent, looking for mail every day at which incidentally Ugland, Paxton and Barkley did very well. And the nightly arguments in the barracks between the CB's and the regular Navy--Ask some of the gunnery group about these arguments. They were really something and kept up until long past taps, so come on Tojo we're ready for anything. If we can get a requisition for ammunition in time and the line isn't too long.

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"OVER THE HILL" By A.B. Benson & F.J. Finn

Herbert H. Brandstetter, CMlc, better known as "Dutch" was formerly connected with the Department of Water and Power in Los Angeles.

"Dutch" has a complaint now and to quote him, "I want to read Watermeters to keep in practice but there just ain't any."

Alvin Puetz, QM3c, formerly a fish merchant in Seattle, Washington used the slogan in his place of business; "If it swims I have It" (Oh yeah, how about Eleanor Holm)??

The fellow doing all those fancy tricks on a bicycle during chow hour is none other than S.A. Dunn, Flc who in civilian life was a cab driver in Paris; Texas.

A. A. LePage, S2c, says his family is well represented in the Armed forces. Besides himself, he has a brother in the Seabees, one in the Army, and one serving on the new battle-wagon "Iowa." On questioning him about the Marines he said, "Aw my sister married a Marine, and they're all right." Who said they weren't.

Fairbanks, Alaska, is represented in our group in the person of John Guse, CCM. He is one of our specialists supervising the construction of huts here. For the past twelve years in civilian life, Guse worked for the U.S. Army Engineers as General Carpenter Foreman. On asking him about the women in Fairbanks, he said, "There are only twelve white women in the city." So we replied, "I guess that makes you go native." As for us, well I guess the same applies now.

J. D. Foster, SF3c, from Fort Worth, Texas, is our new MAA. To quote him, "I'll try to be fair and square with everybody. All I want is your co-operation." O.K. Foster you'll get it.

Every afternoon like the "Pony Express" of old, T. Lima, Flc, mounts his Dodge truck and gallops over hill and dale so his mates can get their most welcome mail from home.

P. N. North, CMM, of Transportation brings back memories of the old days when you drove up to your favorite garage, received a nice smile and plenty of service.

W. J. Gellatly, MS2c, is to our mind a cracker-jack man. He's always on the job doing a consistently good days work.

The reports coming in from Job #5 is that R. C. Patton, CMlc is doing an excellent piece of work. Keep it up Pat that's the kind of stuff we like to hear.

Julius Weisberg, Flc, was with the California Ship Yards before becoming a SeaBee. Although he was a crane operator with that company, he is proving to be a valuable man as material clerk to us.

SCOOP FROM DE-FENCE GANG
To the Officers and Men at
the Radio Station:

We wish to take this time to express our sincere thanks to you for the wonderful way you have treated us since we have been with you. We think it was swell of you to move over and share your quarters with us, also to let us use your writing and recreation facilities. The picture shows are enjoyed by all of us, and words cannot describe the wonderful chow we have been receiving. We want you to know that we appreciate all of this and hope that we haven't been too much of a burden to you.

Signed:--The C.B.Gang

Most of the boys seem right at home since they started working on de fence project.

We hated to see Chief Fitch Transferred to another job. All of us enjoyed working under him and miss him as the days go by.

Hats off to our new Chief R. C. DuBose. He has been doing a very nice job keeping things going on all ends of the project.

R. L. "Junior" Frank seems to be having a little trouble with his girl friends at home. It is rumored that some 4-F boys are his main worry.

It was heard that "Butch" would be a good nick name for Chief DuBose.

N. B. "Brains" Clark says he'd like to be back in Colorado enjoying the cool weather there.

E. P. "Compound" Mann seems to be doing a good job driving trucks, but boy you should have seen the frame on one of them when he finished work one morning.

"Speed" Rolland sure likes his work. You should see his eagle eye twist and turn when he lines up the fence posts.

O. B. Beard still has the old saying 'fall out for muster' ringine in his ears. We wonder why he made friends with the cooks so quick.

By:-- J. C. DeWitt

TO THE EDITOR FROM THE
WATER FRONT DETAIL

Our little family of twenty-one seems to be fitting itself to conditions here, gradually. Not much is being said about going home. We don't know whether thats because they know it won't do any good, or whether they are getting more satisfied with conditions in C. B.'s.

There is more reason to believe we're a part of U.S.N. down here, because we can see water and ships, and some real sailors; along with lots of Marines.

By:-- L. W. May, CCM

Furthermore.....

R. N. Horn, EMlc, had decided that quarter inch re-enforcing rods are a little like electric wire, therefore he is taking quite an interest in steel work.

G. S. Holcombe, CMlc, is learning to cut out framing lumber and ridgeroll before finishing foundation. He uses what is delivered first. All cutting will be done and then the work will really look speedy, if the admiral drops by to see the building go up.

G. B. Crites, SFlc and B. A. Tomaszewski, CM3c still work to-gether. They are good buddies, even if they can't decide who's boss.

Joe Lane and Melvin Lynch keep up their morale by talking of their frying chickens back in Alabama.

Among other things good at The Water Front are a library, nightly movies, soda fountain, and plenty of bananas--we have hot water.

By:-- H. B. Doublede

FROM NEXT DOOR

Those mates you see climbing in and out of holes over in the Marine Area aren't practicing fox-hole maneuvers or going through extended order drill.

Do you want to answer muster in bed in the morning or call up your girl friend in town or the States? Just see Chief Johnson and we know he will be glad to have a telephone installed by your bunk.

By:-- R. K. Davis

Chief: What do you mean by saying you had five years experience when you haven't?

One of us: Well, you asked for a man with imagination.

This paper will gladly publish announcements, notices, and other items bearing upon the welfare of the Battalion. Furthermore, the staff invites and welcomes your criticism of this sheet since it is your paper and we are eager to make it valuable to you. Incidentally; many thanks to all contributors to this issue.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

I. R. Spahr

The skipper kept his word when he said "we will bring the island to you", as the colorful party of Sunday, June 6th, was a "smashing" success. The lovely Hawaiian honies were cheered with hungry applause as they illustrated the beautiful patterns of the Hula dance. The difficulty remained, however, in an effort to convince the audience that native dances are interpreted through the movements of the hands and arms and that the adjoining limbs and contours are only an auxiliary in the execution of the Hula. It was a great show, however, and we would like them back again.

The inexhaustible supply of beer furnished additional entertainment that was not previously scheduled and we doubt very seriously if the Skipper desires another program similar to that one at future parties---barracks No. 2 note well.

All and all we had a great time and still better parties are yet to come. The Next party will feature a hot Navy orchestra and we have hopes of getting you men DATES for the big 76th dance which will be announced in the next edition of our paper. See you then.

Ed: Weren't there some sports too?

WE GOT FLIES: A POEM

The flies on Oahu are happy,
Theres news--and its traveling fast.
A house fly's idea of Paradise
Has come to the island at last.

The 76th Battalion's mess hall,
With doors opened wide, invites all;
From garbage and sewer they're flying
To this bounteous free banquet hall.

No enemy waits there to trap them,
No poison or swatter to fear,
There's plenty of food, all uncovered,
It's free, tell your friends,
bring your gear.

Flies in the butter, flies on the bread;
They crawl on your table and plate,
"Perhaps I shouldn't mention it,
Mac",
But why war on what you just ate."

Signed: - A. Griper

IMPORTANT!!!!

All enlisted personnel are required to report immediately to the personnel office ANY CHANGE IN MARITAL STATUS, SUCH AS: DIVORCE, RE-MARRIAGE, BIRTHS, DEATHS, ETC., when such changes occur. Changes of address should also be reported.

Failure to comply with the above will result in disciplinary action.

ALL HANDS REMEMBER ---

Almost everything we use has been transported across 2000 miles of ocean, and 1500 to 3000 miles of rail line which is badly needed to haul the prime articles of war---guns, bullets, planes, tanks, which must be brought into contact with the enemy before we can win this war. These prime articles were left off the trains and boats so that the "groundwork materials" which you are now using and consuming could be brought here. Remember this and use your materials and tools carefully and economically.

Ray D. Riley, Westminister, Maryland, received a surprise promotion in rating. He has just been made, BS1c

NEWS FROM "DOWN UNDER"

"It was with a great deal of pleasure that I was able to see and read a copy of your newspaper.-- Congratulations to all of the staff. We send our best regards to all of the boys up there and hope to see them in the very near future."

J. K. Simmons, S1c

Incidentally have you seen their paper, fellows. It is generally posted on the Rec. Hall bulletin board. All hands who have, surely return the congratulations.

The outstanding news from down there is a whale of a baseball program directed by W. O. Clauve, and a fire which made Lt. Hutchins homeless.

DID YOU KNOW

That our battalion has no less than twenty men in the Naval hospital suffering from a sad assortment of bruises and ailments. Why not visit them sometimes? ---